

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 005805

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/23/2013

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ETRD](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: GCC COMMITS TO ANTITERROR PACT, INCREASED ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Classified By: CDA John G. Moran for reason 1.4 (b)

1. (U) Summary: Wrapping up its annual summit in Kuwait on December 22, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) agreed its member states would enter into an anti-terror pact, but did not specify a deadline. In the organization's closing statement, the Supreme Council (SC), composed of heads of states of the six GCC members or their representatives, condemned recent terror attacks in Riyadh and Iraq and urged member states to accede to the International Convention on Combating Terror. On the economic front, the GCC ratified a new Gulf Authority for Standardization, aimed at coordinating efforts towards the full implementation of a planned customs union. The SC also praised the agreement between the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Iraqi Governing Council to expedite the transfer of power to the Iraqi people. End Summary.

2. (U) GCC countries agreed to conclude an anti-terror convention during their December 21-22 annual summit in Kuwait, which assumed the rotating presidency for one year. Strongly condemning the Riyadh bombings and all acts of violence, the GCC Supreme Council agreed in its final communique that Ministers of Interior from respective member states would sign an agreement at a later date. Acting on a recommendation from its Interior Ministers, the SC also urged its member states to join the UN International Convention on Combating Terror, citing the destabilizing effects of terrorism on the region.

3. (U) The GCC leaders also focused on increased economic cooperation as a means to increase stability. During the summit, the GCC Supreme Council:

- Discussed economic integration and conducted evaluations of reports and recommendations on economic issues. They took note of progress regarding the planned GCC Customs Union.

- Affirmed the necessity of the free flow of commodities and goods between its member states, as well as the removal of obstacles to this free flow. To this end, the SC decided to establish a Customs Information Center at the GCC General Secretariat, linking GCC customs agencies and facilitating

SIPDIS

the execution of Customs Union requirements.

- Reviewed progress made on the joint Gulf Market initiative, to be fully implemented by 2007. The initiative includes a provision guaranteeing GCC citizens full rights while in other GCC states.

- Established that the Monetary Union would issue a common GCC currency NLT January 2010. The decision to issue a common currency had been previously ratified during the 22nd session.

- Ratified a unified anti-dumping law with an effective date of January 2004.

- Ratified a new Gulf Authority for Standardization, to be headquartered in Riyadh. The organization will monitor progress by member states on customs union implementation issues, as well as safeguard quality standards on products entering the GCC market.

- Agreed to cooperate more closely on power and water issues in the future.

- Assigned a committee to draft a feasibility report on the establishment of rail links between GCC states.

4. (U) On Iraq, the Supreme Council reiterated GCC sympathy for and solidarity with the Iraqi people "in their current ordeal." They expressed satisfaction with the new US policy expediting the shift of power to Iraqis and welcomed the agreement between the IGC and CPA to lay down a specific timetable transferring power. The council also called for a UN role in Iraq, "in order to enable Iraqis to decide their own political future."

5. (U) Calling on the occupation forces to follow all relevant UNSCRs and international law, specifically the 1949

4th Geneva Convention, the SC denounced the terrorist explosions against civilians, humanitarian groups, international organizations and diplomatic missions. (Note: It did not specifically mention US forces. End Note.) It denounced deliberate mass murder by the former Iraqi regime as "flagrant, gross violations of human rights, Islamic principles and Arab values and morals," and welcomed the establishment by the Iraqi Governing Council of a special tribunal to try members of the former regime.

16. (C) Comment: For all the pre-summit talk that this meeting would chart the course of the GCC for the next ten years, the result is what one might expect from a summit of less than one full day. The major themes track with the GCC states' professed interest in greater economic unity and cooperation against the strategic threat of terrorism.

MORAN